

**To:** Alex Hinson[alex\_hinson@ios.doi.gov]; Caroline Boulton[caroline\_boulton@ios.doi.gov]; Daniel Jorjani[daniel.jorjani@sol.doi.gov]; David Bernhardt[(b)(6)@ios.doi.gov]; Douglas Domenech[douglas\_domenech@ios.doi.gov]; Eli Nachmany[eli\_nachmany@ios.doi.gov]; Getto, Leila[leila\_getto@ios.doi.gov]; James Cason[james\_cason@ios.doi.gov]; John Tanner[John\_tanner@ios.doi.gov]; Laura Rigas[laura\_rigas@ios.doi.gov]; Magallanes, Downey[downey\_magallanes@ios.doi.gov]; Mashburn, Lori[lori\_mashburn@ios.doi.gov]; Micah Chambers[micah\_chambers@ios.doi.gov]; Natalie Davis[natalie\_davis@ios.doi.gov]; Russell Newell[russell\_newell@ios.doi.gov]; Scott Hommel[scott\_hommel@ios.doi.gov]; Swift, Heather[heather\_swift@ios.doi.gov]; Thiele, Aaron[aaron\_thiele@ios.doi.gov]; Willens, Todd[todd\_willens@ios.doi.gov]  
**From:** Mashburn, Lori  
**Sent:** 2017-11-29T13:35:09-05:00  
**Importance:** Normal  
**Subject:** Fwd: DOI Cabinet Affairs Report 11/29  
**Received:** 2017-11-29T13:35:57-05:00  
DAILY UPDATE FOR CABINET AFFAIRS 11-29-17.docx

**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR DAILY UPDATE FOR CABINET AFFAIRS – 11/29/17**

Lori Mashburn, White House Liaison  
 Natalie Davis, Special Assistant to the Secretary

**STATUS OF THE SECRETARY**

NEXT WEEK: In DC and Louisiana

- 11/29 Meeting with Space X and Boring Company
  - o Meeting with House Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior Chair Ken Calvert
  - o Pechanga Indian Water Rights Settlement Signing Ceremony
  - o White House State, Local, and Tribal Veterans Reception
- 11/30 National Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony
- 12/1 New Orleans, Louisiana Site visit with BSEE/BOEM Leadership
  - o BOEM/BSEE All Hands Meeting
  - o Baton Rouge, LA - Dinner with Senator Cassidy and other stakeholders
- 12/2 Baton Rouge, LA Briefing with local officials at Center for Coastal and Deltaic Studies (Senator Cassidy and Kennedy in attendance)
  - o Thibodaux, LA Meeting with wetlands stakeholders at Jean Lafitte National Historic Park and Preserve Wetlands Acadian Cultural Center
  - o Airboat Tour with Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration

Authority of Davis Pond Freshwater Diversion

- o Dinner with local stakeholders

**STATUS OF THE DEPUTY SECRETARY**

TODAY: The DepSec is in DC

- Testimony before the House Subcommittee on the Interior, Energy, and the Environment and the Subcommittee on Intergovernmental Affairs, Oversight and Government Reform Committee

**WH COMMS REPORT** (submitted Tuesday, 11/28)

**Press Inquiries:**

- Small inquiries and logistical inquiries.
- **\*Multiple Inquiries\*** (ABC, NBC, CBS, E&E, The HILL)—**General REQUEST--** Wondering if you have any guidance on this report from the Salt Lake Tribune...President Donald Trump will fly into Utah on Monday to announce that he'll shrink the Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante national monuments, sources familiar with the trip confirmed to The Salt Lake Tribune.—**RESPONSE--** We have nothing to announce on either the monument report or the Secretary's schedule but I will keep you on the list of folks to update.
- **E&E News:** (Scott Streater)—**REQUEST--** BLM Idaho state director Tim Murphy is retiring in January after 37 years at the agency. I need to double check: This has nothing to do with any agency reorganization, right? I'm sure some will say so, and if it is, fine, but if it's not, I need to make that clear. -- **RESPONSE--** I have no information on an employee's personal decision to retire.
- **Western Livestock Journal:** (Rae Price)—**REQUEST--** I am seeing numerous stories circulating that Karen Budd-Falen is a candidate for the BLM director position. Has Secretary Zinke officially named her as a candidate? If not, is there any indication of when that might happen?—**RESPONSE--** Neither the President nor the Secretary have nominated somebody to the position.

**Top Stories**

- **Washington Post:** Trump to visit Utah on Monday to announce his plans to shrink Bears Ears, Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monuments
- **Salt Lake Tribune:** Trump will shrink Bears Ears during Utah visit Monday and five tribes promise to sue him that same day
- **Newsmax:** Zinke Remains Trump Cabinet's Most Deplorable Member

**Top Issues and Accomplishments**

- Interior continues to support all Hurricane Harvey, Hurricane Irma, Hurricane

Maria, and Hurricane Nate efforts. All bureaus are executing their emergency plans and assisting in Hurricane relief.

- Today, Secretary Zinke met with Jeff Crane of the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation.
- Tomorrow, Secretary Zinke will participate in the White House Native American/Veterans event. Later he will also participate in a Pechanga Indian Water Rights Settlement Signing Ceremony.
- Thursday, Secretary Zinke will participate in the National Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony with POTUS.
- This Weekend, Secretary Zinke will go to Louisiana to meet with many Congressional members and the Governor.

#### AGENCY MEDIA

##### **WEEK AHEAD November 22 thru November 30, 2017 (submitted 11/21)**

Announcements/Releases/Events

#### U.S. Department of the Interior

*Secretarial-level Announcements/Events/Interviews* The Secretary will be on personal leave in MT starting tomorrow (Wednesday) and returning Monday evening.

- **November 29:** The Secretary will participate in the White House Native American/Veterans event. Later he will also participate in a Pechanga Indian Water Rights Settlement Signing Ceremony.
- **November 29 (TBD):** Major announcement regarding Arlington Memorial Bridge. Pending WH review.
- **November 27/29 (TBD):** USGS will release a report on critical minerals, followed by an EO and SO signing. Pending WH review.
- **December 4:** Proclamation signing in Utah regarding the Antiquities Act.
- **December TBD:** BOEM will announce the 5 Year Program. This will be big news and we will distribute materials ASAP.
- **December TBD:** Arctic EA and proposed rule. This will be big news and we will distribute materials ASAP. Alaskan delegation is supportive.

#### National Park Service

- **November TBD: National NPS Release:** NPS will issue a release announcing the installation of four electric vehicle charging stations in and around Gettysburg National Military Park as part of a continuing partnership with the National Park Foundation, Department of Energy, and BMW of North America. The first charging stations under the partnership were installed at Thomas Edison National Historical Park in April of this year. The same news release template would be used for future installations at different parks.

### **U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service**

- **November 30 (tent.): Local FWS Release:** FWS will announce the solicitation of input from the scientific community and the broader public on draft criteria set for the eventual recovery of the Northern Continental Divide Ecosystem (NCDE) grizzly bear. The NCDE region encompasses Glacier National Park and other parts of northwestern Montana.
- **November 30 (tent.): Local FWS Release:** FWS will publish a Notice of Regulatory Review (NORR) in the Federal Register requesting public comment on any potential effects a recent D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals ruling may have on the Service's June 30, 2017 final rule delisting the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem grizzly bear Distinct Population Segment.

### **Bureau of Land Management**

- **November 30:** BLM-AK will provide a monthly Right-of-Way application update on the Donlin Gold project to Donlin Gold representatives. BLM-AK Planning and Environmental Specialist Laurie Thorpe and Anchorage Field Office Manager Bonnie Million will present the update.
- **November TBD: Local BLM Release:** BLM-CO expects to issue a decision about whether to grant a royalty rate reduction for the West Elk Mine. The BLM proposes to approve Mountain Coal Company, LLC's application for a royalty rate reduction from 8 percent to 5 percent for 10.3 million tons of coal in the West Elk Mine in southwest Colorado's North Fork Valley.
- **November TBD: Local BLM Release:** BLM-CO expects to issue a decision whether to modify GCC Energy's King II Mine in Montezuma County in southwest CO by 951 acres to allow GCC to access an estimated 4.66 million tons of recoverable Federal coal reserves for an additional 6.5 years of mining.

### **Bureau of Reclamation**

- **November 29:** Reclamation Pacific Northwest Regional Director Lorri Gray will speak at the Oregon Water Resources Congress Annual Conference in Hood River, Oregon.

### **Bureau of Ocean Energy Management**

- **November TBD: BOEM Note to Stakeholders:** Intergovernmental Renewable Energy Task Force Webinar for the New York Bight being hosted on December 4, 2017.
- **November TBD: BOEM Note to Stakeholders:** Intergovernmental Renewable Energy Task Force meeting for Virginia and North Carolina being held on December 7, 2017.
- **November TBD:** GOMR Sale 249 closeout NTS.
- **November TBD:** BOEM will announce a three-week extension of the

Liberty EIS comment period.

**Bureau of Indian Affairs**

- **November 28-30:** The 27th Annual Bureau of Indian Affairs Providers Conference will be held in Anchorage, Alaska. This is a program driven conference with hundreds of Alaska Native Leaders and BIA program managers. The new BIA Director, Byran Rice will address the conference as well as other BIA leadership.
- **November 29-30:** Acting Assistant Secretary Tahsuda will participate and speaks at the Second North American Trilateral Working Group on Violence Against Indigenous women and Girls. He will be one of the senior members of the U.S. delegation that will include representatives from DOJ and DOS.

**CONGRESSIONAL UPDATE**

**UPCOMING HNRC HEARING:** The House Natural Resources Water, Power, and Oceans Subcommittee will have a legislative hearing on H.R. 4419 (Rep. Newhouse), the Bureau of Reclamation and Bureau of Indian Affairs Water Project Streamlining Act. Alan Mikkelsen, the Deputy Commissioner of Reclamation, will be the witness.

**Timing:** Thursday, November 30, 2017

**Contact:** Amanda Kaster, Advisor, Congressional Affairs irs

**UPCOMING SCIA HEARING:** The Senate Committee on Indian Affairs will host a legislative hearing on two Indian water rights settlement bills: S. 664 (Senator Hatch), the Navajo Utah Water Rights Settlement Act of 2017 and S. 1770 (Senator Flake), the Hualapai Tribe Water Rights Settlement Act of 2017. Alan Mikkelsen, the Chair of the Indian Water Rights Office Working Group, will be the witness on behalf of the Department.

**Timing:** Thursday, December 6, 2017

**Contact:** Amanda Kaster, Advisor, Congressional Affairs

**UPCOMING HNRC HEARING:** The House Natural Resources Energy and Mineral Resources Subcommittee will have a legislative hearing on 4 bills. H.R. 1675 (Rep. DelBene), to establish a national program to identify and reduce landslide hazards, H.R. 4033 (Rep. Lamborn) to reauthorize the National Geologic Mapping Act of 1992, a Discussion Draft amending the Geothermal Stream Act of 1970, and a Discussion Draft establishing a National Volcano Early Warning and Monitoring System. Dave Applegate, Acting Deputy Director of USGS, will be witness.

**Timing:** Thursday, November 30, 2017

**Contact:** Blake Deeley, Advisor, Congressional Affairs

**UPCOMING HOGR SUBCOMMITTEE HEARING:** The House Oversight and Government Reform Intergovernmental and Interior subcommittees will be holding a joint subcommittee hearing on "Regulatory Reform Task Forces Check-In: Part III". This is a series of oversight hearings on the implementation of President Trump's Executive Order 13771 (Reducing Regulation and Controlling Regulatory Costs" and Executive Order 13777 "Enforcing the Regulatory Reform Agenda." David Bernhardt, Deputy Secretary will be testifying on behalf of the Department.

**Timing:** Wednesday, November 29, 2017

**Contact:** Micah Chambers, Deputy Director, Congressional Affairs

**UPCOMING HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE HEARING:** The House Interior Appropriations subcommittee will be holding a hearing regarding the Administration's Hurricane Supplemental request. David Bernhardt, Deputy Secretary will be testifying on behalf of the Department.

**Timing:** Thursday, November 30, 2017

**Contact:** Micah Chambers, Deputy Director, Congressional Affairs

## **POLITICAL APPOINTEE UPDATE**

DOI politicals on board = 65

3 PAS confirmed as of 9/18, 1 awaiting processing.

- **Confirmed 11/16:** Brenda Berman, Commissioner, Bureau of Reclamation.

6 nominated awaiting confirmation:

- Pending Senate floor vote: Susan Combs, Assistant Secretary Policy Management and Budget.
- Pending Senate floor vote: Joe Balash, Assistant Secretary, Land and Minerals
- Pending Senate floor vote: Ryan Douglas Nelson, Solicitor
- Pending Hearing: Tara Sweeney, Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs
- Pending Hearing: Steve Gardner, Director, Office of Surface Mining and Reclamation
- Pending Hearing: Tim Petty, Assistant Secretary for Water and Science

Overall:

- Schedule C: 36 of 68 onboard; 2 starting; 6 in process
- NC-SES: 26 of 44 onboard; 3 starting; 1 in process
- PAS: 4 Confirmed; 6 Announced; 14 of 17 Submitted to PPO

### **SECRETARY SPEAKING INVITATIONS**

Accepted:

12/16 - National Wreaths Across America Day (Arlington National Cemetery)

2/9 Western Hunting & Conservation Expo (Salt Lake City, Utah)

3/6-7 CERA Week (Houston, Texas)

Open (date TBC)- Americans for Tax Reform (DC)

Open (date TBC)- Detroit Economic Club

Event Postponed by organizers due to fire - 10/21 DEPA BOD Meeting (CA)

Outstanding Invitations in Process:

12/2 - Annual Mtg of the Boone and Crockett Club (Savannah, GA)

1/4 Dallas Safari Club Annual Meeting (Dallas, TX)

1/26-28 Houston Safari Club Annual Meeting (Houston, TX)

1/29 Society of Range Management Annual Meeting (Reno, Nevada)

1/31-2/3 Safari Club International Annual Meeting (Las Vegas, NV)

2/8- Texas Public Policy Foundation Policy Orientation (Austin, TX)

2/12 The Corps Network National Conference (Washington, DC)

Declining

11/29 Association of California Water Agencies 2017 Fall Conference and Exhibition (Anaheim, CA)

12/1-2 Western Governors Association Annual Meeting (Phoenix, AZ)

12/5-7 America Outdoors Association's 29th Annual Marketing and Management Conference for Outfitters and Adventure Resorts (Reno, NV)

12/5 NY Stock Exchange Ringing of the Bell & remarks at Wells Fargo Financial Symposium Event (NYC)

12/6 American Exploration and Mining Association Annual Meeting (Reno, NV)

12/8 - Valley Industry and Commerce Association Annual Meeting (Los Angeles, CA)

12/11 Veterans Day Commemoration (Prussia, PA)

12/14 Leadership Missoula (Missoula, Montana)

12/8 DOI Toastmasters event (Washington, DC)

12/9 Western Caucus Foundation Winter Policy Meeting (Las Vegas, NV)

1/11/18 EEI CEO and Board Conference (Phoenix, AZ)

2/9-10 Associated General Contractors Western Chapter Annual Meeting (La Jolla, CA)

2/23/18 West Slope Colorado Oil and Gas Association Annual Meeting (Grand Junction, CO)

**EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

N/A

**OUTSIDE MEDIA OF INTEREST (new)****Trump To Visit Utah Next Week, Expected To Announce Monument Decision.**

Reuters (11/28, Holland, Rampton, Volcovicci) reports that President Trump “is expected to announce his decision on whether to reduce the size of two national monuments” where drilling and mining are currently banned during a visit to Utah on Monday. Environmental groups and Native American tribal organizations are planning to protest Trump’s visit, and legal challenges are expected over the decision. Meanwhile, industry groups like the American Petroleum Institute “have said in the past that both Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante were unfairly designated as monuments and needed to be reviewed.”

The AP (11/28) reports that Sen. Orrin Hatch’s spokesman Matt Whitlock “said Tuesday that the president accepted Hatch’s invitation to visit Utah to discuss Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante national monuments.” Hatch and Utah Gov. Gary Herbert “say Trump called them in October to announce he would approve Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke’s recommendation to downsize the two monuments protecting more than 3.6 million acres (14,600 square kilometers).”

Also reporting are the Washington Post (11/28, Eilperin), the Washington Examiner (11/28, Siegel), the Salt Lake (UT) Tribune (11/29, Burr), the San Juan (UT) Record (11/28), the Deseret (UT) News (11/28, Roche), the Aspen (CO) Times (11/28, Condon), the Colorado Springs (CO) Gazette (11/28, Burr), the Westerner (11/28, DuBois), KSL-TV Salt Lake City Salt Lake City (11/28, Roch), and KNRS-FM Salt Lake City Salt Lake City (11/28).

**Eni Receives Federal Permit For US Arctic Offshore Drilling.**

The AP (11/28, Joling) reports the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement has approved an application from Eni to drill exploratory wells in the Beaufort Sea. Drilling could begin next month from Spy Island as Eni plans to use extended-reach drilling methods to hit submerged land. BSEE’s Alaska region director Mark Fesmire said the agency conducted a thorough review of Eni’s well design, testing procedures and safety protocol before approving the plans.

Reuters (11/28, Gardner) reports BSEE director Scott Angelle said developing Arctic resources is a “critical component to achieving American energy dominance.” Environmentalists criticized the move, with the legal director for oceans at the Center for Biological Diversity Kristen Monsell saying, “The Trump administration is risking a major oil spill by letting this foreign corporation drill in the unforgiving waters off Alaska.”

**GOP Closes In On Opening Arctic Wildlife Refuge To Drilling.**

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/28, Puko) reports the GOP is closer to opening the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge as the tax reform bill moves to the Senate floor. Sen. Lisa Murkowski's Committee on Energy and Natural Resources passed a bill to open ANWR drilling earlier this month and the Budget Committee approved the measure. However, the House has not passed a similar provision, but leaders from both chambers will likely negotiate over whether to include it in the final tax bill. The [Seattle Times](#) (11/28, Mapes, Bernton) reports Sen. Maria Cantwell has promised to make every effort to stop the measure. She said, "We are going to have to fight on the floor to try to stop this. ... It's a backdoor process that only needs 51 votes. They would never get it in the normal process."

### **Legal Challenges Mount As Clock Ticks On Elephant Decision.**

[E&E Publishing](#) (11/28, Doyle) reports that the Interior Department is "still struggling amid growing legal challenges to work out what to do about elephant trophy imports from Zimbabwe and Zambia." The decision by President Trump is likely to attract legal challenges. In a suit filed this week, Friends of Animals and the Zimbabwe Conservation Task Force "challenged the Fish and Wildlife Service's original decision earlier this month to lift the 3-year-old ban on the elephant trophy imports." And "a reversal of the Fish and Wildlife Service's extensively studied decision to lift the ban could invite a legal challenge from critics claiming the U-turn was 'arbitrary and capricious' and violated the Administrative Procedure Act."

### **Have An Opinion About The Proposed Fee Hikes For Popular National Parks? The Comment Period Has Been Extended.**

The [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (11/29, Maffly) reports that "in the face of intense public interest, much of it critical," the National Park Service is has extended the public comment period to "on its controversial proposal to boost entrance fees to \$70 per vehicle at its most popular parks." The NPS is "now accepting comments for a second month, until Dec. 22, as it weighs whether to implement the proposal, amend it or abandon it in favor of solutions that don't rely so heavily on visitors."

Meanwhile, [Arizona Public Media](#) (11/28, Sieg) reports that Arizona Attorney General Mark Brnovich has "joined 10 of his counterparts in other states across the country in opposition to the price hike." According to the article, "in a letter addressed to the acting director of the National Park Service, the attorneys general quote naturalist John Muir, who once wrote that people need 'beauty as well as bread.'"

### **Governor: CW Issue Needs US Congressional Action.**

[Marianas Variety](#) (11/27, Todiño) reports that Gov. Ralph D.L.G. Torres on Thursday "reiterated the need for U.S. congressional action to address the CNMI's lack of workers." Last week, "despite the pleas of the CNMI government and business community to reduce it by only one, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security reduced the number of CW-1 permits for fiscal year 2018 by 3,000 — to 9,998 from 12,998." Torres "said he will continue to communicate with U.S. Congressman

Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan 'make every effort to introduce' legislation in the U.S. Congress"

**ANWR SLIPPING THROUGH BELOW THE SURFACE?** With Senate Republicans barreling towards a floor vote on their tax package as soon as this week, Democrats are worried their battle to keep oil and gas drilling out of the untouched Arctic National Wildlife Refuge is being lost in the broader debate, Pro's Ben Lefebvre reports. "It's really not gotten the attention that it should," Sen. Tammy Duckworth said of legislation that easily cleared the Energy and Natural Resources Committee. "It's not just the budget discussion. It's about everything else that's going on, the flurry of all sorts of other news."

- **Democrats don't have the votes to stop ANWR drilling** since it's hitching a ride on the tax bill moving under budget reconciliation rules. The Budget Committee cleared its filibuster-proof package Tuesday, and there were several other signs of momentum for the GOP tax overhaul effort, POLITICO's Seung Min Kim, Bernie Becker and Colin Wilhelm report. Sen. Susan Collins, a key swing vote who's opposed ANWR drilling in the past, said she'd "certainly try" to remove drilling language from the package but that doing so would not be a prerequisite for her support of the overall bill.
- **Senate Energy Chairman Lisa Murkowski's ANWR push** directs Interior to hold two lease sales over the next decade and CBO said it would raise \$1 billion over that period, meeting budgetary instructions. But critics argue the Republican tax package would actually harm energy-producing states. That's because it would trigger required "pay-as-you-go" cuts to mandatory spending programs, such as an energy royalty revenue sharing program carried out through the Mineral Leasing Act that would cost Murkowski's Alaska an estimated \$15 million in energy royalty payments next year alone. "This is yet another example of the consequences associated with forcing through legislation to add \$1.5 trillion to the deficit in order to give tax cuts to the wealthy," House Minority Whip Steny Hoyer said in a statement.

## **OF INTEREST**

ICYMI: WSJ article on elephants

*By Terry L. Anderson and Hannah Downey*

Nov. 28, 2017 6:36 p.m. ET

The debate about hunting lions and elephants has just come roaring back. Earlier this month the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service lifted a ban on importing lion and elephant trophies from Zimbabwe and Zambia. Just days later, after an outcry, President Trump reinstated it. "Put big game trophy decision on hold," Mr. Trump tweeted, "until such time as I review all conservation facts."

Although African lions and elephants are listed under the Endangered Species Act,

Americans can import trophies from certain countries as long as the Fish and Wildlife Service determines that hunting will enhance the survival of the species in the wild. After several years of study, the agency determined that hunting these species in Zimbabwe and Zambia would benefit wildlife conservation.

Environmental activists aren't reassured, and some pledged to sue. "The Trump administration must clearly and permanently halt imports of lion and elephant trophies to protect these amazing animals from extinction," said Tanya Sanerib, a senior attorney with the Center for Biological Diversity. Mr. Trump expressed similar concerns. "Will be very hard pressed to change my mind that this horror show in any way helps conservation of Elephants or any other animal," he tweeted.

The fear is that allowing trophy imports will lead to more killing of animals. To some extent, that's true. But encouraging more legal hunting could actually be a good thing for endangered wildlife.

Many opponents conflate trophy hunting with poaching. Pictures featuring dozens of elephants with their tusks, ears and feet dismembered may seem to represent the effects of all elephant hunting. In reality, such gruesome scenes are created by poachers who illegally kill elephants, usually to trade their parts in Asia, where demand for ivory is high. Where poaching occurs, it is often in conjunction with corruption in the wildlife-regulation system.

Poachers are often local Africans who lose crops, livestock and family members to marauding elephant herds. To them, wildlife is a liability to be avoided or killed rather than an asset to be protected. Poaching, not legal hunting, is what caused Africa's elephant populations to drop by 30% between 2007 and 2014.

Some argue that allowing hunters to import trophies will make it easier for poachers to market illegally killed animals. But bringing a trophy into the U.S. requires federal permits, and getting those from the Fish and Wildlife Service takes mounds of paperwork and months of careful processing.

In Zimbabwe, officials track and register all authorized hunts, identify the nationalities of the participants, and monitor the value and number of elephants harvested relative to the sustainable quota. With proper monitoring, poachers can be caught and wanton killing stopped.

When hunting is prohibited, wildlife bears the cost. Before Kenya banned hunting in 1977, it was home to 167,000 elephants. By 2013 the number had fallen to 27,000, all in protected areas such as national parks. That's because poaching the animals for bushmeat was rampant. [A 2012 study](#) found that eliminating hunting revenues can be bad for lion conservation because it can "reduce tolerance for the species among communities where local people benefit from trophy hunting, and may reduce funds available for anti-poaching."

When conducted responsibly, trophy hunting is both sustainable and profitable. Hunters pay not only for licenses but professional guides and their staffs. Money flows even to local councils that distribute proceeds to villagers. That turns wildlife from a liability into an asset.

Two decades ago, the village of Sankuyo, Botswana, signed on to a community-

based natural-resource program that emphasized hunting. In 2010 the community earned nearly \$600,000 from the animals, including 22 elephants, hunted that year. The funds went to local projects, including to improve water and toilet access. Wildlife populations also increased. "When hunting was introduced," a wildlife-management expert named Brian Child told the New York Times in 2015, "we actually ended up killing less animals."

Sankuyo demonstrates that if hunting is to benefit wildlife, it must first benefit people. If political structures or corruption prevents local communities from benefiting from the presence of wildlife, there will be no motivation to fight poachers or find alternative resolutions to human-animal conflicts.

In 2014, however, Botswana banned trophy hunting. "Before, when there was hunting, we wanted to protect those animals because we knew we earned something out of them," one villager told the Times. "Now, we don't benefit at all from the animals. The elephants and buffaloes leave after destroying our plowing fields during the day. Then, at night, the lions come into our kraals." Without legal hunting to give wildlife value, poaching and human-animal conflicts have increased, and dozens of people have been left jobless.

Though it is perhaps an uncomfortable reality, responsible hunting can promote wildlife conservation. It makes wildlife an asset to local communities, which secures the survival of at-risk species. If the Fish and Wildlife Service has determined that's the case in Zimbabwe and Zambia, a distaste for hunting shouldn't be enough to stand in the way.

*Mr. Anderson is a senior fellow at the Hoover Institution and the Property and Environment Research Center in Bozeman, Mont. Ms. Downey is a research fellow at PERC.*

---

**FEDERAL REGISTER LISTINGS:**

Sent to the Federal Register on November 27th.

REG0007639 FWS Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Possible Effects of Court Decision on Grizzly Bear Recovery in the Conterminous United States -- FWS is seeking public comment on a recent D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals ruling, that may impact our June 30, 2017, final rule delisting the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem (GYE) grizzly bear Distinct Population Segment. Notice 11/28/2017

REG0007640 FWS Draft Supplement to the Grizzly Bear Recovery Plan: Habitat-Based Recovery Criteria for the Northern Continental Divide Ecosystem -- The draft supplement, which will be appended to the Grizzly Bear Recovery Plan upon finalization, proposes to establish habitat based recovery criteria for the Northern Continental Divide Ecosystem (NCDE), which occurs in Montana. Notice 11/28/2017

REG0007647 FWS Final Mexican Wolf Recovery Plan, First Revision -- The purpose of the notice is to notify local, State, and Federal agencies; Tribes; and the public, in

both the United States and Mexico of the final revised recovery plan. Notice 11/28/2017

REG0007658 FWS Notice of Availability: Applications to Participate in American Burying-Beetle Amended Industry Conservation Plan (XTO Energy, Inc. and Tall Oak Woodford, LLC) -- The two applicants are XTO Energy, Inc. and Tall Oak Woodford, LLC. Notice 11/28/2017

REG0007662 FWS Availability of a Proposed Amendment to a Low-Effect Habitat Conservation Plan for the Florida Scrub-Jay, Manatee and Hardee Counties, FL -- Mosaic Fertilizer, LLC, has applied for an amendment to their existing incidental take permit. The revised HCP addresses the anticipated take of the federally threatened Florida scrub-jay and eastern indigo snake incidental to land clearing and phosphate mining. Notice 11/28/2017

REG0007532 OSM Wyoming Regulatory Program (WY-045-FOR) -- The Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE) is issuing a final decision on an amendment to the Wyoming regulatory program under the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 (SMCRA). The decision approves in part and disapproves in part the amendment. Final Rule 11/28/2017

Lori K. Mashburn  
White House Liaison  
Department of the Interior  
202.208.1694

**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR DAILY UPDATE FOR CABINET AFFAIRS – 11/29/17**

Lori Mashburn, White House Liaison  
 Natalie Davis, Special Assistant to the Secretary

**STATUS OF THE SECRETARY**

NEXT WEEK: In DC and Louisiana

- 11/29 – Meeting with Space X and Boring Company
  - Meeting with House Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior Chair Ken Calvert
  - Pechanga Indian Water Rights Settlement Signing Ceremony
  - White House State, Local, and Tribal Veterans Reception
- 11/30 – National Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony
- 12/1 –New Orleans, Louisiana – Site visit with BSEE/BOEM Leadership
  - BOEM/BSEE All Hands Meeting
  - Baton Rouge, LA - Dinner with Senator Cassidy and other stakeholders
- 12/2 – Baton Rouge, LA – Briefing with local officials at Center for Coastal and Deltaic Studies (Senator Cassidy and Kennedy in attendance)
  - Thibodaux, LA – Meeting with wetlands stakeholders at Jean Lafitte National Historic Park and Preserve Wetlands Acadian Cultural Center
  - Airboat Tour with Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority of Davis Pond Freshwater Diversion
  - Dinner with local stakeholders

**STATUS OF THE DEPUTY SECRETARY**

TODAY: The DepSec is in DC

- Testimony before the House Subcommittee on the Interior, Energy, and the Environment and the Subcommittee on Intergovernmental Affairs, Oversight and Government Reform Committee

**WH COMMS REPORT (submitted Tuesday, 11/28)****Press Inquiries:**

- Small inquiries and logistical inquiries.
- **\*Multiple Inquiries\*** (ABC, NBC, CBS, E&E, The HILL) – **General REQUEST** – Wondering if you have any guidance on this report from the Salt Lake Tribune...President Donald Trump will fly into Utah on Monday to announce that he'll shrink the Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante national monuments, sources familiar with the trip confirmed to The Salt Lake Tribune. – **RESPONSE** – We have nothing to announce on either the monument report or the Secretary's schedule but I will keep you on the list of folks to update.
- **E&E News:** (Scott Streater) – **REQUEST** – BLM Idaho state director Tim Murphy is retiring in January after 37 years at the agency. I need to double check: This has nothing to do with any agency reorganization, right? I'm sure some will say so, and if it is, fine, but if it's not, I need to make that clear. – **RESPONSE** – I have no information on an employee's personal decision to retire.
- **Western Livestock Journal:** (Rae Price) – **REQUEST** – I am seeing numerous stories circulating that Karen Budd-Falen is a candidate for the BLM director position. Has Secretary Zinke officially named her as a candidate? If not, is there any indication of when that might happen? – **RESPONSE** – Neither the President nor the Secretary have nominated somebody to the position.

**Top Stories**

- **Washington Post:** [Trump to visit Utah on Monday to announce his plans to shrink Bears Ears, Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monuments](#)
- **Salt Lake Tribune:** [Trump will shrink Bears Ears during Utah visit Monday and five tribes promise to sue him that same day](#)
- **Newsmax:** [Zinke Remains Trump Cabinet's Most Deplorable Member](#)

#### **Top Issues and Accomplishments**

- Interior continues to support all Hurricane Harvey, Hurricane Irma, Hurricane Maria, and Hurricane Nate efforts. All bureaus are executing their emergency plans and assisting in Hurricane relief.
- Today, Secretary Zinke met with Jeff Crane of the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation.
- Tomorrow, Secretary Zinke will participate in the White House Native American/Veterans event. Later he will also participate in a Pechanga Indian Water Rights Settlement Signing Ceremony.
- Thursday, Secretary Zinke will participate in the National Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony with POTUS.
- This Weekend, Secretary Zinke will go to Louisiana to meet with many Congressional members and the Governor.
- 

#### **AGENCY MEDIA**

##### **WEEK AHEAD November 22 thru November 30, 2017 (submitted 11/21)**

Announcements/Releases/Events

##### **U.S. Department of the Interior**

*Secretarial-level Announcements/Events/Interviews* The Secretary will be on personal leave in MT starting tomorrow (Wednesday) and returning Monday evening.

- **November 29:** The Secretary will participate in the White House Native American/Veterans event. Later he will also participate in a Pechanga Indian Water Rights Settlement Signing Ceremony.
- **November 29 (TBD):** Major announcement regarding Arlington Memorial Bridge. Pending WH review.
- **November 27/29 (TBD):** USGS will release a report on critical minerals, followed by an EO and SO signing. Pending WH review.
- **December 4:** Proclamation signing in Utah regarding the Antiquities Act.
- **December TBD:** BOEM will announce the 5 Year Program. This will be big news and we will distribute materials ASAP.
- **December TBD:** Arctic EA and proposed rule. This will be big news and we will distribute materials ASAP. Alaskan delegation is supportive.

##### **National Park Service**

- **November TBD: National NPS Release:** NPS will issue a release announcing the installation of four electric vehicle charging stations in and around Gettysburg National Military Park as part of a continuing partnership with the National Park Foundation, Department of Energy, and BMW of North America. The first charging stations under the partnership were installed at Thomas Edison National Historical Park in April of this year. The same news release template would be used for future installations at different parks.

##### **U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service**

- **November 30 (tent.): Local FWS Release:** FWS will announce the solicitation of input from the scientific community and the broader public on draft criteria set for the eventual recovery of the Northern Continental Divide Ecosystem (NCDE) grizzly bear. The NCDE region encompasses Glacier National Park and other parts of northwestern Montana.
- **November 30 (tent.): Local FWS Release:** FWS will publish a Notice of Regulatory Review (NORR) in the Federal Register requesting public comment on any potential effects a recent D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals ruling may have on the Service's June 30, 2017 final rule delisting the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem grizzly bear Distinct Population Segment.

**Bureau of Land Management**

- **November 30:** BLM-AK will provide a monthly Right-of-Way application update on the Donlin Gold project to Donlin Gold representatives. BLM-AK Planning and Environmental Specialist Laurie Thorpe and Anchorage Field Office Manager Bonnie Million will present the update.
- **November TBD: Local BLM Release:** BLM-CO expects to issue a decision about whether to grant a royalty rate reduction for the West Elk Mine. The BLM proposes to approve Mountain Coal Company, LLC's application for a royalty rate reduction from 8 percent to 5 percent for 10.3 million tons of coal in the West Elk Mine in southwest Colorado's North Fork Valley.
- **November TBD: Local BLM Release:** BLM-CO expects to issue a decision whether to modify GCC Energy's King II Mine in Montezuma County in southwest CO by 951 acres to allow GCC to access an estimated 4.66 million tons of recoverable Federal coal reserves for an additional 6.5 years of mining.

**Bureau of Reclamation**

- **November 29:** Reclamation Pacific Northwest Regional Director Lorri Gray will speak at the Oregon Water Resources Congress Annual Conference in Hood River, Oregon.

**Bureau of Ocean Energy Management**

- **November TBD: BOEM Note to Stakeholders:** Intergovernmental Renewable Energy Task Force Webinar for the New York Bight being hosted on December 4, 2017.
- **November TBD: BOEM Note to Stakeholders:** Intergovernmental Renewable Energy Task Force meeting for Virginia and North Carolina being held on December 7, 2017.
- **November TBD:** GOMR Sale 249 closeout NTS.
- **November TBD:** BOEM will announce a three-week extension of the Liberty EIS comment period.

**Bureau of Indian Affairs**

- **November 28-30:** The 27th Annual Bureau of Indian Affairs Providers Conference will be held in Anchorage, Alaska. This is a program driven conference with hundreds of Alaska Native Leaders and BIA program managers. The new BIA Director, Byran Rice will address the conference as well as other BIA leadership.
- **November 29-30:** Acting Assistant Secretary Tahsuda will participate and speaks at the Second North American Trilateral Working Group on Violence Against Indigenous women and Girls. He will be one of the senior members of the U.S. delegation that will include representatives from DOJ and DOS.

**CONGRESSIONAL UPDATE**

**UPCOMING HNRC HEARING:** The House Natural Resources Water, Power, and Oceans Subcommittee will have a legislative hearing on H.R. 4419 (Rep. Newhouse), the Bureau of Reclamation and Bureau of Indian Affairs Water Project Streamlining Act. Alan Mikkelsen, the Deputy Commissioner of Reclamation, will be the witness.

**Timing:** Thursday, November 30, 2017

**Contact:** Amanda Kaster, Advisor, Congressional Affairs irs

**UPCOMING SCIA HEARING:** The Senate Committee on Indian Affairs will host a legislative hearing on two Indian water rights settlement bills: S. 664 (Senator Hatch), the Navajo Utah Water Rights Settlement Act of 2017 and S. 1770 (Senator Flake), the Hualapai Tribe Water Rights Settlement Act of 2017. Alan Mikkelsen, the Chair of the Indian Water Rights Office Working Group, will be the witness on behalf of the Department.

**Timing:** Thursday, December 6, 2017

**Contact:** Amanda Kaster, Advisor, Congressional Affairs

**UPCOMING HNRC HEARING:** The House Natural Resources Energy and Mineral Resources Subcommittee will have a legislative hearing on 4 bills. H.R. 1675 (Rep. DelBene), to establish a national program to identify and reduce landslide hazards, H.R. 4033 (Rep. Lamborn) to reauthorize the National Geologic Mapping Act of 1992, a Discussion Draft amending the Geothermal Stream Act of 1970, and a Discussion Draft establishing a National Volcano Early Warning and Monitoring System. Dave Applegate, Acting Deputy Director of USGS, will be witness.

**Timing:** Thursday, November 30, 2017

**Contact:** Blake Deeley, Advisor, Congressional Affairs

**UPCOMING HOGR SUBCOMMITTEE HEARING:** The House Oversight and Government Reform Intergovernmental and Interior subcommittees will be holding a joint subcommittee hearing on "Regulatory Reform Task Forces Check-In: Part III". This is a series of oversight hearings on the implementation of President Trump's Executive Order 13771 (Reducing Regulation and Controlling Regulatory Costs" and Executive Order 13777 "Enforcing the Regulatory Reform Agenda." David Bernhardt, Deputy Secretary will be testifying on behalf of the Department.

**Timing:** Wednesday, November 29, 2017

**Contact:** Micah Chambers, Deputy Director, Congressional Affairs

**UPCOMING HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE HEARING:** The House Interior Appropriations subcommittee will be holding a hearing regarding the Administration's Hurricane Supplemental request. David Bernhardt, Deputy Secretary will be testifying on behalf of the Department.

**Timing:** Thursday, November 30, 2017

**Contact:** Micah Chambers, Deputy Director, Congressional Affairs

#### **POLITICAL APPOINTEE UPDATE**

DOI politicals on board = 65

3 PAS confirmed as of 9/18, 1 awaiting processing.

- **Confirmed 11/16:** Brenda Berman, Commissioner, Bureau of Reclamation.

6 nominated awaiting confirmation:

- Pending Senate floor vote: Susan Combs, Assistant Secretary Policy Management and Budget.
- Pending Senate floor vote: Joe Balash, Assistant Secretary, Land and Minerals
- Pending Senate floor vote: Ryan Douglas Nelson, Solicitor
- Pending Hearing: Tara Sweeney, Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs
- Pending Hearing: Steve Gardner, Director, Office of Surface Mining and Reclamation
- Pending Hearing: Tim Petty, Assistant Secretary for Water and Science

Overall:

- Schedule C: 36 of 68 onboard; 2 starting; 6 in process
- NC-SES: 26 of 44 onboard; 3 starting; 1 in process
- PAS: 4 Confirmed; 6 Announced; 14 of 17 Submitted to PPO

**SECRETARY SPEAKING INVITATIONS**

Accepted:

12/16 - National Wreaths Across America Day (Arlington National Cemetery)

2/9 – Western Hunting & Conservation Expo (Salt Lake City, Utah)

3/6-7 – CERA Week (Houston, Texas)

Open (date TBC)- Americans for Tax Reform (DC)

Open (date TBC)- Detroit Economic Club

~~Event Postponed by organizers due to fire 10/21 DEPA BOD Meeting (CA)~~

Outstanding Invitations in Process:

12/2 - Annual Mtg of the Boone and Crockett Club (Savannah, GA)

1/4 – Dallas Safari Club Annual Meeting (Dallas, TX)

1/26-28 – Houston Safari Club Annual Meeting (Houston, TX)

1/29 – Society of Range Management Annual Meeting (Reno, Nevada)

1/31-2/3 Safari Club International Annual Meeting (Las Vegas, NV)

2/8- Texas Public Policy Foundation Policy Orientation (Austin, TX)

2/12 – The Corps Network National Conference (Washington, DC)

Declining

11/29 Association of California Water Agencies 2017 Fall Conference and Exhibition (Anaheim, CA)

12/1-2 – Western Governors Association Annual Meeting (Phoenix, AZ)

12/5-7 America Outdoors Association's 29th Annual Marketing and Management Conference for Outfitters and Adventure Resorts (Reno, NV)

12/5 – NY Stock Exchange Ringing of the Bell & remarks at Wells Fargo Financial Symposium Event (NYC)

12/6 American Exploration and Mining Association Annual Meeting (Reno, NV)

12/8 - Valley Industry and Commerce Association Annual Meeting (Los Angeles, CA)

12/11 – Veterans Day Commemoration (Prussia, PA)

12/14 – Leadership Missoula (Missoula, Montana)

12/8 – DOI Toastmasters event (Washington, DC)

12/9 – Western Caucus Foundation Winter Policy Meeting (Las Vegas, NV)

1/11/18 – EEI CEO and Board Conference (Phoenix, AZ)

2/9-10 Associated General Contractors Western Chapter Annual Meeting (La Jolla, CA)

2/23/18 – West Slope Colorado Oil and Gas Association Annual Meeting (Grand Junction, CO)

**EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

N/A

**OUTSIDE MEDIA OF INTEREST (new)**

**Trump To Visit Utah Next Week, Expected To Announce Monument Decision.**

Reuters (11/28, Holland, Rampton, Volcovic) reports that President Trump "is expected to announce his decision on whether to reduce the size of two national monuments" where drilling and mining are currently banned during a visit to Utah on Monday. Environmental groups and Native American tribal

organizations are planning to protest Trump's visit, and legal challenges are expected over the decision. Meanwhile, industry groups like the American Petroleum Institute "have said in the past that both Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante were unfairly designated as monuments and needed to be reviewed."

The [AP](#) (11/28) reports that Sen. Orrin Hatch's spokesman Matt Whitlock "said Tuesday that the president accepted Hatch's invitation to visit Utah to discuss Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante national monuments." Hatch and Utah Gov. Gary Herbert "say Trump called them in October to announce he would approve Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke's recommendation to downsize the two monuments protecting more than 3.6 million acres (14,600 square kilometers)."

Also reporting are the [Washington Post](#) (11/28, Eilperin), the [Washington Examiner](#) (11/28, Siegel), the [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (11/29, Burr), the [San Juan \(UT\) Record](#) (11/28), the [Deseret \(UT\) News](#) (11/28, Roche), the [Aspen \(CO\) Times](#) (11/28, Condon), the [Colorado Springs \(CO\) Gazette](#) (11/28, Burr), the [Westerner](#) (11/28, DuBois), [KSL-TV Salt Lake City](#) Salt Lake City (11/28, Roch), and [KNRS-FM Salt Lake City](#) Salt Lake City (11/28).

#### **Eni Receives Federal Permit For US Arctic Offshore Drilling.**

The [AP](#) (11/28, Joling) reports the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement has approved an application from Eni to drill exploratory wells in the Beaufort Sea. Drilling could begin next month from Spy Island as Eni plans to use extended-reach drilling methods to hit submerged land. BSEE's Alaska region director Mark Fesmire said the agency conducted a thorough review of Eni's well design, testing procedures and safety protocol before approving the plans.

[Reuters](#) (11/28, Gardner) reports BSEE director Scott Angelle said developing Arctic resources is a "critical component to achieving American energy dominance." Environmentalists criticized the move, with the legal director for oceans at the Center for Biological Diversity Kristen Monsell saying, "The Trump administration is risking a major oil spill by letting this foreign corporation drill in the unforgiving waters off Alaska."

#### **GOP Closes In On Opening Arctic Wildlife Refuge To Drilling.**

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/28, Puko) reports the GOP is closer to opening the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge as the tax reform bill moves to the Senate floor. Sen. Lisa Murkowski's Committee on Energy and Natural Resources passed a bill to open ANWR drilling earlier this month and the Budget Committee approved the measure. However, the House has not passed a similar provision, but leaders from both chambers will likely negotiate over whether to include it in the final tax bill. The [Seattle Times](#) (11/28, Mapes, Bernton) reports Sen. Maria Cantwell has promised to make every effort to stop the measure. She said, "We are going to have to fight on the floor to try to stop this. ... It's a backdoor process that only needs 51 votes. They would never get it in the normal process."

#### **Legal Challenges Mount As Clock Ticks On Elephant Decision.**

[E&E Publishing](#) (11/28, Doyle) reports that the Interior Department is "still struggling amid growing legal challenges to work out what to do about elephant trophy imports from Zimbabwe and Zambia." The decision by President Trump is likely to attract legal challenges. In a suit filed this week, Friends of Animals and the Zimbabwe Conservation Task Force "challenged the Fish and Wildlife Service's original decision earlier this month to lift the 3-year-old ban on the elephant trophy imports." And "a reversal of the Fish and Wildlife Service's extensively studied decision to lift the ban could invite a legal challenge from critics claiming the U-turn was 'arbitrary and capricious' and violated the Administrative Procedure Act."

**Have An Opinion About The Proposed Fee Hikes For Popular National Parks? The Comment Period Has Been Extended.**

The [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (11/29, Maffly) reports that "in the face of intense public interest, much of it critical," the National Park Service is has extended the public comment period to "on its controversial proposal to boost entrance fees to \$70 per vehicle at its most popular parks." The NPS is "now accepting comments for a second month, until Dec. 22, as it weighs whether to implement the proposal, amend it or abandon it in favor of solutions that don't rely so heavily on visitors."

Meanwhile, [Arizona Public Media](#) (11/28, Sieg) reports that Arizona Attorney General Mark Brnovich has "joined 10 of his counterparts in other states across the country in opposition to the price hike." According to the article, "in a letter addressed to the acting director of the National Park Service, the attorneys general quote naturalist John Muir, who once wrote that people need 'beauty as well as bread.'"

**Governor: CW Issue Needs US Congressional Action.**

[Marianas Variety](#) (11/27, Todiño) reports that Gov. Ralph D.L.G. Torres on Thursday "reiterated the need for U.S. congressional action to address the CNMI's lack of workers." Last week, "despite the pleas of the CNMI government and business community to reduce it by only one, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security reduced the number of CW-1 permits for fiscal year 2018 by 3,000 — to 9,998 from 12,998." Torres "said he will continue to communicate with U.S. Congressman Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan 'make every effort to introduce' legislation in the U.S. Congress"

**ANWR SLIPPING THROUGH BELOW THE SURFACE?** With Senate Republicans barreling towards a floor vote on their [tax package](#) as soon as this week, Democrats are worried their battle to keep oil and gas drilling out of the untouched Arctic National Wildlife Refuge is being lost in the broader debate, Pro's Ben Lefebvre [reports](#). "It's really not gotten the attention that it should," Sen. [Tammy Duckworth](#) said of [legislation](#)that easily cleared the Energy and Natural Resources Committee. "It's not just the budget discussion. It's about everything else that's going on, the flurry of all sorts of other news."

- **Democrats don't have the votes to stop ANWR drilling** since it's hitching a ride on the tax bill moving under budget reconciliation rules. The Budget Committee cleared its filibuster-proof package Tuesday, and there were several other signs of momentum for the GOP tax overhaul effort, POLITICO's Seung Min Kim, Bernie Becker and Colin Wilhelm [report](#). Sen. [Susan Collins](#), a key swing vote who's opposed ANWR drilling in the past, said she'd "certainly try" to remove drilling language from the package but that doing so would not be a prerequisite for her support of the overall bill.
- **Senate Energy Chairman Lisa Murkowski's ANWR push** directs Interior to hold two lease sales over the next decade and CBO said it would raise \$1 billion over that period, meeting budgetary instructions. But critics argue the Republican tax package would actually harm energy-producing states. That's because it would trigger required "pay-as-you-go" cuts to mandatory spending programs, such as an energy royalty revenue sharing program carried out through the Mineral Leasing Act that would cost Murkowski's Alaska [an estimated \\$15 million](#) in energy royalty payments next year alone. "This is yet another example of the consequences associated with forcing through legislation to add \$1.5 trillion to the deficit in order to give tax cuts to the wealthy," House Minority Whip [Steny Hoyer](#) said in a statement.

**OF INTEREST**

ICYMI: WSJ article on elephants

*By Terry L. Anderson and Hannah Downey*

Nov. 28, 2017 6:36 p.m. ET

The debate about hunting lions and elephants has just come roaring back. Earlier this month the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service lifted a ban on importing lion and elephant trophies from Zimbabwe and Zambia. Just days later, after an outcry, President Trump reinstated it. “Put big game trophy decision on hold,” Mr. Trump tweeted, “until such time as I review all conservation facts.”

Although African lions and elephants are listed under the Endangered Species Act, Americans can import trophies from certain countries as long as the Fish and Wildlife Service determines that hunting will enhance the survival of the species in the wild. After several years of study, the agency determined that hunting these species in Zimbabwe and Zambia would benefit wildlife conservation.

Environmental activists aren’t reassured, and some pledged to sue. “The Trump administration must clearly and permanently halt imports of lion and elephant trophies to protect these amazing animals from extinction,” said Tanya Sanerib, a senior attorney with the Center for Biological Diversity. Mr. Trump expressed similar concerns. “Will be very hard pressed to change my mind that this horror show in any way helps conservation of Elephants or any other animal,” he tweeted.

The fear is that allowing trophy imports will lead to more killing of animals. To some extent, that’s true. But encouraging more legal hunting could actually be a good thing for endangered wildlife.

Many opponents conflate trophy hunting with poaching. Pictures featuring dozens of elephants with their tusks, ears and feet dismembered may seem to represent the effects of all elephant hunting. In reality, such gruesome scenes are created by poachers who illegally kill elephants, usually to trade their parts in Asia, where demand for ivory is high. Where poaching occurs, it is often in conjunction with corruption in the wildlife-regulation system.

Poachers are often local Africans who lose crops, livestock and family members to marauding elephant herds. To them, wildlife is a liability to be avoided or killed rather than an asset to be protected.

Poaching, not legal hunting, is what caused Africa’s elephant populations to drop by 30% between 2007 and 2014.

Some argue that allowing hunters to import trophies will make it easier for poachers to market illegally killed animals. But bringing a trophy into the U.S. requires federal permits, and getting those from the Fish and Wildlife Service takes mounds of paperwork and months of careful processing.

In Zimbabwe, officials track and register all authorized hunts, identify the nationalities of the participants, and monitor the value and number of elephants harvested relative to the sustainable quota. With proper monitoring, poachers can be caught and wanton killing stopped.

When hunting is prohibited, wildlife bears the cost. Before Kenya banned hunting in 1977, it was home to 167,000 elephants. By 2013 the number had fallen to 27,000, all in protected areas such as national parks. That’s because poaching the animals for bushmeat was rampant. [A 2012 study](#) found that eliminating hunting revenues can be bad for lion conservation because it can “reduce tolerance for the species among communities where local people benefit from trophy hunting, and may reduce funds available for anti-poaching.”

When conducted responsibly, trophy hunting is both sustainable and profitable. Hunters pay not only for licenses but professional guides and their staffs. Money flows even to local councils that distribute proceeds to villagers. That turns wildlife from a liability into an asset.

Two decades ago, the village of Sankuyo, Botswana, signed on to a community-based natural-resource program that emphasized hunting. In 2010 the community earned nearly \$600,000 from the animals, including 22 elephants, hunted that year. The funds went to local projects, including to improve water and toilet access. Wildlife populations also increased. “When hunting was introduced,” a wildlife-management expert named Brian Child told the New York Times in 2015, “we actually ended up killing less animals.”

Sankuyo demonstrates that if hunting is to benefit wildlife, it must first benefit people. If political structures or corruption prevents local communities from benefiting from the presence of wildlife, there will be no motivation to fight poachers or find alternative resolutions to human-animal conflicts.

In 2014, however, Botswana banned trophy hunting. “Before, when there was hunting, we wanted to protect those animals because we knew we earned something out of them,” one villager told the Times. “Now, we don’t benefit at all from the animals. The elephants and buffaloes leave after destroying our plowing fields during the day. Then, at night, the lions come into our kraals.” Without legal hunting to give wildlife value, poaching and human-animal conflicts have increased, and dozens of people have been left jobless.

Though it is perhaps an uncomfortable reality, responsible hunting can promote wildlife conservation. It makes wildlife an asset to local communities, which secures the survival of at-risk species. If the Fish and Wildlife Service has determined that’s the case in Zimbabwe and Zambia, a distaste for hunting shouldn’t be enough to stand in the way.

*Mr. Anderson is a senior fellow at the Hoover Institution and the Property and Environment Research Center in Bozeman, Mont. Ms. Downey is a research fellow at PERC.*

**FEDERAL REGISTER LISTINGS:**

Sent to the Federal Register on November 27th.

REG0007639 FWS Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Possible Effects of Court Decision on Grizzly Bear Recovery in the Conterminous United States -- FWS is seeking public comment on a recent D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals ruling, that may impact our June 30, 2017, final rule delisting the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem (GYE) grizzly bear Distinct Population Segment. Notice 11/28/2017

REG0007640 FWS Draft Supplement to the Grizzly Bear Recovery Plan: Habitat-Based Recovery Criteria for the Northern Continental Divide Ecosystem -- The draft supplement, which will be appended to the Grizzly Bear Recovery Plan upon finalization, proposes to establish habitat based recovery criteria for the Northern Continental Divide Ecosystem (NCDE), which occurs in Montana. Notice 11/28/2017

REG0007647 FWS Final Mexican Wolf Recovery Plan, First Revision -- The purpose of the notice is to notify local, State, and Federal agencies; Tribes; and the public, in both the United States and Mexico of the final revised recovery plan. Notice 11/28/2017

REG0007658 FWS Notice of Availability: Applications to Participate in American Burying-Beetle Amended Industry Conservation Plan (XTO Energy, Inc. and Tall Oak Woodford, LLC) -- The two applicants are XTO Energy, Inc. and Tall Oak Woodford, LLC. Notice 11/28/2017

REG0007662 FWS Availability of a Proposed Amendment to a Low-Effect Habitat Conservation Plan for the Florida Scrub-Jay, Manatee and Hardee Counties, FL -- Mosaic Fertilizer, LLC, has applied for an amendment to their existing incidental take permit. The revised HCP addresses the anticipated take of the federally threatened Florida scrub-jay and eastern indigo snake incidental to land clearing and phosphate mining. Notice 11/28/2017

REG0007532 OSM Wyoming Regulatory Program (WY-045-FOR) -- The Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE) is issuing a final decision on an amendment to the Wyoming regulatory program under the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 (SMCRA). The decision approves in part and disapproves in part the amendment. Final Rule 11/28/2017